

NEWS and Notes

Edwin J. Cohn, professor of biological chemistry, Harvard Medical School, and chairman of the Medical Sciences Division of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, has been named a university professor of Harvard. Dr. Cohn is the first scientist to hold a university professorship. His appointment follows the retirement last year of **Roscoe Pound**, the first scholar to receive the appointment. The other university professors are: **Werner W. Jaeger**, classicist; **Sumner H. Slichter**, economist; and **I. A. Richards**, humanist.

Edwin H. Land, president and director of research of the Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, Massachusetts, is planning a trip to England and the Continent for the late spring. May 31, he will address the Royal Photographic Society on "A New Camera and One-Step Photographic Process," June 1, The Royal Institution on "Optical Polarizers," and June 2, The Physical Society on "A Color Translating Ultraviolet Microscope."

Dugald E. S. Brown, director of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, has been appointed chairman of the Department of Zoology at the University of Michigan. He will assume his duties on September 1, succeeding **George R. LaRue**, who will continue as professor of zoology.

Clarence Crafoord, cardiac specialist of Sweden, has been made an honorary doctor of medicine by the University of Grenoble, France. On May 28, his 50th birthday, Dr. Crafoord will receive a fund raised by the Swedish people to support his work in heart surgery.

Henry De Wolf Smyth, chairman of the Department of Physics, Princeton University, has been appointed a member of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. Dr. Smyth was the author of "Atomic Energy for Military Purposes,"

the U. S. official report on the development of the atomic bomb. His appointment follows the resignation of **Robert F. Bacher** who will become professor of physics and chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy of the California Institute of Technology, effective this summer.

Norman R. Beers, head of the meteorology group at Brookhaven National Laboratory, has been appointed editor of *Nucleonics*. He will continue as consultant for the Department of Reactor Science and Engineering at Brookhaven.

George P. Berry, associate dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester, has been appointed dean of the Harvard Medical School, effective July 1. Dr. Berry succeeds **C. Sidney Burwell**, who has resigned to devote his full time to teaching and research.

Visitors to U. S.

Jens Nielsen, medical director of Radium Center and Finsen Institute, Copenhagen, was a recent visitor at the Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago.

Alexander Muir, chief of the Soil Survey in England and Wales, and head of the Department of Pedology of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, is visiting soil survey groups in various parts of the country. He will also serve as a delegate at the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources, to be held in New York this fall.

Grants and Awards

The University of Buffalo has been granted \$29,370 by the Veterans Administration for research on "Psychological Adjustment to Hemorrhage and the Fate of the Transfused Red Blood Cell." The grant, made through the National Research Council, is for one year and is renewable as the project continues. **John D. Stewart**, professor of surgery, and chairman of the Department of Surgery of the Medical School, will head the project. He will be assisted by three major in-

vestigators: **Edgar L. Hummel**, hematologist; **Joseph G. Hoffman**, biophysicist; and **Irving Rudman**, surgical assistant.

The **Torrey Botanical Club** has made awards from its **Mary S. Andrews Research Fund** to **Robert T. Clausen**, Department of Botany, Cornell University, for a taxonomic study of the genus *Sedum* in the Sierra Madre Oriental of Mexico; to **Richard Goodwin**, Connecticut College, for a study of fluorescing substances in roots; to **Charles Heimsch**, University of Texas, for comparative anatomical studies of angiospermous families; and to **Brother Leon**, Colegio de La Salle, to assist in the preparation of volumes on the *Flora de Cuba*.

The **New Orleans Academy of Sciences** and the **American Association for the Advancement of Science** have awarded their 1949 research grant to **H. S. Mayerson** and **J. K. Hampton, Jr.**, both of the Department of Physiology, Tulane University School of Medicine, to further their investigations of the histological site of deposition of ferritin in the kidney.

Fellowships

The Department of Physics, University of Southern California, has announced the availability of graduate teaching and research assistantships for the academic year 1949-50. Half-time assistants, with 12 hours of laboratory supervision a week, will receive tuition plus \$800 to \$1,000. Applicants should write to **John R. Holmes**, Department of Physics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles 7.

The **American College of Physicians** has announced that a limited number of fellowships in medicine will be available from July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1951. They will provide research training in the basic medical sciences or in their application to clinical investigation at a stipend of \$2,200 to \$3,200, facilities to be provided by the laboratory or clinic chosen by the applicant. Applications may be obtained from the American College of Physicians, 4200

Pine Street, Philadelphia 4. Awards will be announced in November, 1949.

Colleges and Universities

Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia, laid the cornerstone of its \$2,000,000 science building last month. The structure, to be completed in 1950, will house classroom and complete laboratory facilities for the biology, botany, zoology, geology, chemistry, and physics departments.

The McCollum-Pratt Institute of Johns Hopkins University will begin July 1 the trace element studies made possible by a gift from John Lee Pratt in January, 1948 (see *Science*, 107, 186). William D. McElroy has been made director of the institute, and Robert Ballantine and Alvin Nason have been named staff members. The unit plans to study the role of micronutrients in the metabolism of plants and animals, to hold periodic conferences on research problems, and to make available pre- and post-doctoral fellowships in the field of micronutrients.

Meetings and Elections

ASA 20th Anniversary. The American Acoustical Society held its 20th anniversary meeting in New York City May 5-7. The theme of the meeting was "Acoustics and Man," and papers were classified according to function in the following categories: "Acoustics in Communication"; "Acoustics in the Arts"; "Acoustics in Comfort and Safety"; and "Acoustics in Research." Invited papers on these subjects were presented, in addition to the contributed papers.

Vern O. Knudsen warned that in many occupations, such as riveting, blasting, and jet propulsion, noise levels are so high that the health of workers is endangered. A noise level from 120 to 150 decibels "can destroy hearing, excite vestibular disturbances, and cause other serious injury," he said. In subways the level often reaches 100 decibels. England, Sweden, Denmark, and

Holland have sound-insulation procedures worthy of emulation, Dr. Knudsen said, and he recommended stricter zoning and building codes for this country. Another speaker who decried noise was Leo L. Beranek, and he proposed adequate sound-proofing to combat it. U. S. sound-proofing standards are much lower than those in England and other countries, he said.

William B. Snow described means for controlling some of the noisiest of industrial operations. In a ram jet motor test station operated by John Hopkins University during the war test cells were built with double concrete walls separated by dead air space, and the cells were enclosed with heavy double doors pulled against rubber seals.

Homer Dudley presented a paper by T. H. Tarnoczy, of Budapest, predicting that scientists may well develop electrical devices which will analyze and synthesize speech sounds "so that the human voice can give commands which will be . . . carried out automatically without the intervention of a single human hand."

Harry F. Olson stated that education and culture have been as much advanced by the reproduction of sound through the telephone, radio, phonograph, and motion picture as they were by the invention of the printing press.

Philip Morse said that one of the major lessons of war research was the immense value of close cooperation among specialists in varied fields. "We have no iron curtains in science in this country," he said, "nor will we as long as we keep our channels of intercommunication open and busy." Because progress in one field often produces results applicable in another, Dr. Morse feels that it behooves scientists to keep abreast of developments on the entire front of scientific research.

A sensitive electroacoustic instrument for detecting gallstones was described by E. G. Thurston. Passed along the bile ducts, the instrument, when it reaches a gallstone, produces a clicking sound in headphones worn by the surgeon.

A founders' luncheon was attended by a considerable fraction of those far-seeing members who 20 years ago assembled on the roof of the Bell Telephone Laboratories at 463 West Street for a photograph, after completing the plans for organization of the Acoustical Society of America. This group was photographed again at the recent luncheon, 20 years older, 20 decibels wiser. These founders could be identified by their white carnations and justifiable air of pride.

Since the society got its start at the Bell Telephone Laboratories, it was appropriate that Friday should be spent in a tour of the beautiful new Bell Laboratories at Murray Hill, New Jersey. Half the day was spent in visiting various portions of the laboratory devoted to acoustical research, and the other half in attending a series of demonstration lectures in the Arnold Auditorium. We all know that sound will travel around curves inside a tube, but Winston E. Cook showed sound following a curve along the outside of a rod covered with discs about the size of a penny and half an inch apart.

Harvey Fletcher, first president of the society, was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Membership by his one-time student, Vern O. Knudsen. Divertissement was conducted by the society's humorist, Pat Norris, who outlined the advances in acoustics made during his 20 years of membership, starting with the open window unit of sound absorption and ending with the vastly improved modern sound recording systems which now require three turntable speeds instead of one.

FLOYD FIRESTONE

Those wishing to submit papers on education at the AAAS December meeting should mail abstracts of proposed topics to D. A. Worcester, Secretary, Section Q, Department of Educational Psychology and Measurements, University of Nebraska, Teachers College, Lincoln 8, Nebraska, not later than July 1.

The American Institute of Chemists at its annual meeting, May 6, in Chicago, announced the election of the following councilors: councilor for one-year term: Roy H. Kienle, director of application research, Calco Chemical Division of American Cyanamid Company, Bound Brook, New Jersey; councilors for three-year terms: Donald Price, technical director, Oakite Products, Inc., New York City; Charles P. Neidig, Chemical Products Division, Atlantic Refining Company, Philadelphia; and Charles C. Concannon, chief of Chemical Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C.

NRC News

The National Research Council has announced 15 awards of the **National Research Fellowships in the Natural Sciences**. These fellowships are supported by an appropriation from the Rockefeller Foundation, and are to aid the further training of persons who have demonstrated a high order of ability in research in the natural sciences. The fellowship program, one of the oldest in the sciences, has been continuously administered by the NRC for 30 years.

This year's awards were distributed among the fields of astronomy (1), biology (1), botany (2), chemistry (4), mathematics (2), psychology (1), physics (3), and zoology (1). The new fellows, the universities and institutions at which they will study, and their subjects of research are: *Robert S. Bandurski*, California Institute of Technology, mechanism of carotenoid pigment synthesis in plants; *Philip J. Bersh*, Columbia University, effect of severable variables upon action of secondary reinforcing stimuli; *Jerome A. Berson*, Harvard University, the structure of emetine; *Verne E. Grant*, Stanford University, genetics and systematics of *Gilia multicaulis*, *Gilia achilleaeifolia*, and their allies; *Walter E. Kaskan*, Johns Hopkins University, spectroscopic compounds; *William R. Krigbaum*, Cornell University, solubility of polymeric materials; *Edwin E. Moise*, Institute for Advanced Study, the triangula-

tion of classical 30 manifolds; *Richard O. Recknagel*, University of Wisconsin, enzyme localizations in tissue homogenates; *Charles Max Stein*, Institute Henri Poincaré, Paris, sequential estimation; *Carl B. Seligman*, Physikalisches Institut der Eidg. Techn. Hochschule, Zürich; quantum field theory and applications to nuclear problems; *Alfred S. Sussman*, University of Pennsylvania, metabolic changes induced by parasitism; *Warren H. Watanabe*, Columbia University, effect of solvent basicity on the rate of an acid catalyzed reaction; *Marshal H. Wrubel*, Princeton University Observatory, radiative transfer in interstellar space; and *Sydney C. Wright*, Institute of Nuclear Studies and the University of Chicago, the nature of fission, stars and spallation in high energy nuclear reactions.

Fellowship renewed for another year: *Norman M. Kroll*, Institute for Theoretical Physics in Copenhagen, higher order effects in quantized field theories, and the problem of the deuteron.

Deaths

Raymond McCreary Hann, 49, chief of the Chemistry Section, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, died May 3 at the Marine Hospital in Baltimore. Dr. Hann joined the institute in 1929 and did research in sugar chemistry.

William B. Herms, 72, professor emeritus of parasitology and entomology at the University of California, died May 10 of a heart attack at Berkeley, California.

Harry M. Davis, 38, science editor of *Newsweek*, drowned in the Gulf of Mexico on May 16. Mr. and Mrs. Davis were vacationing at Biloxi, Mississippi at the time.

An eight-man board of judges to determine the winners of two \$1,000 **AAAS-George Westinghouse Science Writing Awards** for 1949 has been announced. The judges, chosen as representatives of the general public, science, newspapers and magazines, are: Morris Meister, retiring president of the National Science Teachers Association; Henry R. Aldrich, secretary, Geological Society

of America; Detlev Bronk, president, The Johns Hopkins University and chairman, National Research Council; Kent Cooper, executive director, The Associated Press; John R. Dunning, nuclear physicist, Columbia University; Clifton Fadiman, a member of the board of judges of the Book-of-the-Month Club; Rudolph Flesch, readability consultant, and Edward Weeks, editor, *The Atlantic Monthly*. Dr. Meister is chairman of the board of judges.

One award of \$1,000 will be made to the writer of what the judges consider to be the outstanding news story on science published in 1949, and the other award of \$1,000 will go to the writer of the outstanding article on science published during the year in a general circulation, non-technical magazine. The awards will be presented next December 28 at the annual meeting of the AAAS in New York City.

In announcing the judges, Howard A. Meyerhoff, administrative secretary of the AAAS, emphasized that the annual competition was established four years ago to encourage young writers to take up careers in science writing. "The young writer," he said, "has a good chance to win \$1,000 if his work shows initiative, originality, scientific accuracy, and clarity of interpretation. The only other requirement—and this is certainly not a formidable one—is that in the newspaper competition the contestant must submit three science stories published during 1949 as evidence of bona fide interest and continuity of effort in science writing for newspapers. There is ample time—four months remain—for interested news writers to qualify."

Science writers honored in the past and no longer eligible for the \$1,000 award in the newspaper competition are: Howard W. Blakeslee, Associated Press; Watson Davis, Science Service; David Dietz, Scripps-Howard newspapers; Thomas R. Henry, *Washington Star* and North American Newspaper Alliance; Waldemar Kaempffert, *New York Times*; Gobind Behari Lal, *American Weekly*; William L. Laurence, *New York Times*; Herbert B. Nichols, *Christian Science Monitor*; John J. O'Neill, *New York Herald Tribune*;

Robert D. Potter, writer and consultant; Jane Stafford, Frank Thone and Marjorie Van de Water, all of Science Service; James G. Chesnutt, *San Francisco Call-Bulletin*; George Keaney, *New York World-Telegram*; and Frank Carey, Associated Press. An award in the newspaper field, however, does not exclude a writer from competing for the \$1,000 magazine award.

The Atomic Energy Commission on May 22 issued the following statement concerning the fellowship program now being administered by the National Research Council:

"Since the fellowship program is entirely supported by Federal funds, each AEC fellow, whether his study is in secret or non-secret fields, who desires to continue participation in the program, will be required to execute an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and an affidavit that he is not a Communist or a member of any organization advocating the overthrow of the United States Government. The oath and affidavit are similar to those which are required of all government employees.

"The action taken with respect to the oath and affidavit to be executed by fellows is in accord with statements made this week by officers of the Commission, the National Research Council, and the National Academy of sciences appearing before the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the Independent Office Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

"The officers of the Academy and the Council also outlined to the Congressional Committees the responsibilities these bodies bear under their terms of organization to serve governmental agencies (1) by advising on scientific matters and (2) on the request of governmental agencies by carrying on specific programs within the field of their scientific competence. The work of the Council in the AEC fellowship program is undertaken to discharge the second of these responsibilities.

The Executive Committee of the National Research Council will consider in accordance with their usual practice additional modifications in

the procedures to be used in the future for selection of those to receive fellowship awards.

"Of the 497 present fellows in the medical, biological and physical sciences affected by today's action, 240 are holders of fellowships to become effective in the 1949-50 academic year after July 1, 1949; 257 are at work under fellowships for the current academic year. Of these latter, 103 have been investigated by the FBI and cleared by the Commission for access to restricted data, since they are engaged in secret research and study. The remaining 154 are doing non-secret research and study."

The Federation of American Scientists issued the following statement on May 5 concerning the dismissal of Ralph Spitzer by A. L. Strand, president of Oregon State College:

"The Federation of American Scientists is concerned about implications for scientific freedom involved in the charges made by Dr. A. L. Strand, president of Oregon State College, in justifying his decision not to renew the contract of Dr. Ralph Spitzer, associate professor of chemistry. The basic charge made against Spitzer is that he is a follower of the Communist party line. Statements received by the Federation from Spitzer and Strand show that the only evidence presented publicly in support of the charge against Spitzer is a letter written by him to a technical journal. From this Strand concludes that Spitzer 'quotes the charlatan Lysenko in preference to what he must know to be the truth. . . . Any scientist who has such poor power of discrimination so as to choose to support Lysenko's Michurin genetics against all the weight of evidence against it is not much of a scientist, or, a priori, has lost the freedom that an instructor and investigator should possess.' Spitzer pointed out that in his letter he did not 'support or accept Lysenko's theories.'"

Without passing judgment on the validity of any biological theory, the Federation nevertheless is concerned about the issue of orthodoxy in scientific thought which appears to be raised in the charges of the Ore-

gon State College president. No scientific theory is 'right' or 'wrong' just because it is espoused by a particular national group or government. The validity of scientific theories ought to be determined, now and in the future, just as it has in the past—by experimental methods. It is deplorable that Lysenko's theory has been made a matter of national policy of the USSR; it would be equally deplorable to make *any* theory, in any field of science, a matter of national doctrine. There is no surer way to stifle science.

Present scientific knowledge does not entitle anyone to be dogmatic about the nature of hereditary processes. Genetic theory is undergoing continuous modification under the impact of new facts gathered both in the United States and abroad. This process is hindered when decree is substituted for the time-tested method of experiment and scientific discussion—whether this is done by exponents of the Lysenko school, or by the president of Oregon State College. In the long run, the principle of free scientific thought and opinion will prove more important than the fate of any individual theory."

Make Plans for—

American Medical Association, annual meeting, June 6-10, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

American Neurological Association, annual meeting, June 13-15, Chalfonte-Haddon Hall, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy Symposium, June 13-17, Mendenhall Laboratory of Physics, Ohio State University, Columbus.

Pacific Division of the AAAS, 30th annual meeting, June 13-18, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

American Mathematical Society, 3rd annual symposium in applied mathematics, June 14-16, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

American Society of Mammalogists, annual meeting, June 14-17, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.